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THURSDAY, November 27, 2025

The Courier Leader

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Volume 8, Issue 48 | wilcoxnewspapers.com • 269-657-3072 | USPS 564-620

First draft of County Facilities Master Plan unveiled

By Paul Garrod
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HARTFORD - The first draft of the Van Buren County Facilities Master Plan was unveiled Friday afternoon, Nov. 21, during an initial meeting for Van Buren County Board of Commissioners/administration, Van Buren County Courts, County Elected Officials and community partners. The meeting was held at the Human Services West Building West.

Van Buren County Administrator John Faul told the more than 30 people gathered for the Van Buren County Administrator's Group Meeting, the Facilities Master Plan would present "a big picture of where we are going to go in the next 25 years. I think the plan will show the county's commitment to facilities that are safe, functional and fiscally responsible"

Ryan Archer and Angela Lazarte, of Tower Pinkster, were in attendance and oversaw a 90-minute presentation on the Facilities Master Plan, which included an interactive session to give input on the future development of county facilities.

Archer said the county's Facilities Master Plan is currently being drafted on 20 county sites and contains two volumes with approximately 300 to 400 pages of assessments. The planning report/executive summary is approximately 35 pages.

"The planning is really the meat of the report," said Archer. We're looking for input from you all to continue moving in the right direction," said Archer.

The first draft of the Van Buren County Facilities Master Plan was unveiled Friday afternoon, Nov. 21, during an initial meeting for Van Buren County Board of Commissioners/administration, Van Buren County Courts, County Elected Officials and community partners. The meeting was held at the Human Services West Building West. The meeting was facilitated by from left, Ryan Archer and Angela Lazarte, of Tower Pinkster, and Van Buren County Administrator John Faul.
Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

During a 40-minute session, Archer asked the group to count off in groups of four and then work together to develop a model of what they would like to see the Paw Paw courthouse campus look like in the future.

The final Facilities Master Plan is expected to be completed in 2026, then it will be presented to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners for final review, a public hearing, then approval.

Redmond honored for 50 years of service through emergency medical care

Paw Paw Quick Response Leader John Redmond was honored Sunday, Nov. 23, during a retirement ceremony marking his 50 years of service through emergency medical care. During a ceremony held at the Paw Paw Fire Department, Redmond received tributes from the Paw Paw Fire Department, the Village of Paw Paw, Van Buren Emergency Medical Services, and a state Special Tribute.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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The state Special Tribute, signed by State Rep. Pauline Wendzel and Sen. Aric Nesbitt, read in part: "In 1987, John Redmond established the Paw Paw Quick Response Team to support community members in need through their fast and reliable medical-rescue service. For over 27 years, John has been faithfully leading this mission with unwavering dedication. Throughout his remarkable career, John has responded to thousands of emergency calls and has answered every one with determination and a willingness to help. Community members have been blessed by John's caring spirit and steadfast commitment to service."

It continued, "Beyond his leadership of the Quick Response Team, Mr. Redmond has also devoted 13 years of service to Thompson Ambulance, culminating in an incredible 50 years of service in emergency medical care. After five decades of tireless service, Mr. Redmond now embarks on a well-deserved retirement."

It concluded, "We thank him for his service that has left a lasting mark on West Michigan."

Paw Paw Fire Department Fire Chief Kyle Richardson, along with many other Paw Paw Fire Department members, presented Redmond with a plaque of appreciation for his many years of service to the Paw Paw community.

The plaque read: "For 50 years of dedicated service to the Paw Paw area. With appreciation from all of us at the Paw Paw Fire Department."

The Village of Paw Paw was represented by Village President Roman Plaszczak, who presented Redmond with a plaque. It read it part: "The Village of Paw Paw presents you with this plaque in honor of your over 37 years of dedicated and selfless service to the citizens of Paw Paw and the surrounding community. The impact you have made to those around you and the community will live on for years to come."

Van Buren Emergency Services, represented by Dennis Reynolds, presented Redmond with a plaque that read: "In recognition of your 50 years of outstanding service to the community. Thank you."

The Paw Paw Quick Response Team has ended with Redmond's retirement; however, talks are currently underway as Van Buren EMS works to develop a new one.

Volunteers prepare Thanksgiving baskets for vets

Van Buren County Veterans Services, Paw Paw, and several volunteers on Saturday, Nov. 22, packed 30 Thanksgiving baskets that were distributed to several area American Legions and Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations. Turkeys were purchased from Family Fare, Paw Paw, and a notable discount.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Area Blue Star Mothers hold "Operation Holiday Cheer"

"Operation Holiday Cheer," an event hosted by the Blue Star Mothers of America Southwest Michigan Chapter 179, saw many area residents turn out Nov. 8, to help pack boxes for the military.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Families need help this holiday season

The following letters are just a few of the dozens we have received. The deadline to submit letters for help is on December 5th. You must include your name, address and a phone number to be eligible. If you need help OR are interested in donating to the Christmas Wish Program, you can do so by wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com or giving us a call, 269-657-5080. You may also mail your letters or donations to: Wilcox Newspapers PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010.

I have been debating on sending this message for a couple days. I know that there are other people out there that could use the help and my kids are on the older side, but I don't know where else to turn and don't want to feel like a complete failure as a mother.

I have 2 children. My daughter just turned 13 and my son will be the big 18 on Veterans day. I have maintained a steady job all my life in the customer service industry and just loved it, but then I was forced to put my full time job on hold and drop down to part time to take care of my husband who has suffered a total of 4 strokes in the past 10 years. The last one that had completely disabled him and that has put a really hard toll on us as he was in the union doing construction and was making comfortable living money. Just really goes to show you don't ever take what you have for granted.

We decided to move to Mississippi for a better life for the kids about a year ago. While it was a very good life lesson for the kids and a definite cultural change, we had to come back due to a cancer scare with me and we needed to tie up a few loose ends back here before heading back. Well long story short, we are still in Michigan living with my mother in a one bedroom apartment with no car and no job and it literally makes me cry myself to sleep every single night.

I don't want this to come off as a poor me email, but my kids are so amazing and deserve more than what they have and again, this makes me feel like the worst parent. They are very good students in school and just love helping others every chance they get. I hate how they have had to put their wants on hold as we are not able to give them what we were able to give them a couple years ago. They say it's ok and they understand but I don't think that they should have to suffer because of mine and my husband's life mistakes.

So I am asking for help. I have been trying to find a job but without a car it is becoming a hassle. I just want to give them a good christmas and be able to have them open up presents on Christmas morning and not have the reaction like last year.... "cool socks" lol

I know I should have reached out sooner, but the other day when I picked up the flashes for my mom as I always do when we go to the store, the article on the left caught my eye and made me have an intuition to message you. If you could let me know if any help is possible for my family I would really appreciate it. Like I said I don't know where else to turn and would appreciate any help that is available.

Hello, I am writing to get help for Christmas for my 4 grandchildren. They are a boy 17, a girl 16, a girl 13, and a girl 3. I have had guardianship of them for the last 13 yrs. I am disabled and everything I get goes to help my husband keep the lights on and a roof over our heads. He doesn't make a lot and I do what I can to help him but it doesn't leave much to try to bring Christmas to our grandchildren. We give them our love year around but this year I would like to be able to put something under the tree for them. I have been able to in the past but this year has been a real struggle for us. We have been trying to keep my husbands truck running so he can work but the repairs take everything that we try to save up. Please help me put a smile on our grandchildren's faces this year. I know Christmas is a time for love and being together as a family and god knows we have the love for them but I would like to be able to give them something special this year. They are a blessing to us. We provide everything they need but this time of year I would like to give them something a little special. I don't know how many more holidays I will have with them but would like to make this one special. I lost my mother last year and Christmas wasn't a great time for us and I would like to give them a great Christmas this year. They have been so loving and caring and telling me not to worry about it, but I do. Help me please make this a great Christmas for them. Thank you.

It is very hard for me to write this letter. I am not one to ask for help. I divorced my husband many years ago and always have been able to pay my bills and pay for my needs. In 2015 I was diagnosed with Stage IV Appendix Cancer. After 1 year of treatment I am thankfully cancer free! Then in 2019 a tumor was found in my brain. I lost memory and my ability to think of words to say (aphasia). I get along. Needless to say I am unable to work. I live on Social Security and SNAP benefits. Usually when I need something I can draw from my budget that I have for food. This government shutdown has drained my ability to do this. All my extra money goes towards food for me and food/litter for my pets. Oh! I also had to buy glasses in the last month. I'm in a panic because my brakes are needing replacement. My driver's side front brakes are the worst. Very noisy! I do not have the money to fix them. I have been unable to visit my grandchildren since early last Spring. I would really like to visit them during Christmas week. My daughter, son in law and grandchildren live in Fort Wayne. I don't feel safe driving down there. I do use my car to pick up groceries at Walmart. I feel that I need to save what's left of the brakes just to do that. I live in Paw Paw at Berkshire Apartments. When I was married I lived in my hometown of Lawton. At that time my husband was on the fire department. I used to support the firemen and the victims of house fires. I loved doing that! I made sure the firemen had food, coffee and water. Ok that's enough about me! I hope you can help me. Thank you for considering my request.

Hello, I am writing because I need some help for Christmas I am a Disabled man who has lost all of his family and I even lost my only child I had. My son died of covid on may 9th of 2020. I need your help because I am in need of help for my very sick dog. He is my support dog and he has heart failure and Liver failure I need to put, him to sleep and I don't even have the money to put my sick dog to sleep My vet wants 300 dollars and after I get my social security check I don't even have that much money left to make it through the month but trying to put my sick dog to sleep, is even harder on me mentally and physically. I have checked with the county animal control and they want 80 dollars to put him to sleep, but I want his ashes next to my son's ashes because they were best friends and they were together all of the time except for when my son was in school. To get the ashes for my sick dog is another 160 dollars and I don't have 240 dollars for everything So that my sick dog can rest in peace. I am sorry for asking for help, but I really need some help. I have been buying his medicine and letting other bills go because I going to my vet and asking the doctor what should I do. And all I get is lets try this medicine or this medicine and I know he is suffering and I don't want him suffering anymore. It is breaking my heart with all of the symptoms that he is going through and not having enough money to put him to rest is killing me and I don't think I am not going to have a Christmas this year if I have to do all of this on my own and still let some of my bills go. If there is anyone out there who is willing to help. It would make my Christmas wish for me and my sick support dog a dream come true. And let my dog rest in peace.

I am sending this on behalf of my Granddaughter. She has 2 daughters an 8 year old and a 5 year old and they live in Gobles.

In my grand daughter story she never tells how her husband deserted them by moving back to Georgia when her oldest was 3 and she divorced him and has full custody of her 2 girls.

hopefully you will read there story.

My request is that someone has a used and very dependable car that my gradndaughter can buy. It is hard to trust people when buying a used car. It happened once with Seely Ford in Paw Paw! The dealership was told how they had to make many trips to Ann Arbor Children Hospital but we think the care only about the sale. needless to say it was very disappointing to her.

She needs another car! She now has a good job at Lawton schools and has the girls in school there, her oldest has always been home schooled because she would get sick quickly because of the antirejection meds she has to take. the school will allow for her to take off when her oldest has appointments at Ann Arbor Childrten's Hospital; a wonderful blessing! She is barrowing cars for now as she searches and trust others to be truthful about a used car. Maybe there is someone wanting to sell a dependable used SUV. Thank you so Much for reading their journey and considering this request!

What would make my christmas a lotI don't even have enough brighter is if someone could help me with a few bills I have coming up in december,I am on disability and I am not even going to have enough money to cover them, 1st bill is 230 dollars for my little dog that is on heart medication,I have been paying 150 dollars every month for them but now they want to do a recheck on his blood pressure again and the is another 80 dollars, I have maxed out all my credit cards getting the dental work done last year and this year he had to have test,bloodwork and x rays, and he needs to be groomed again cause his nails and hair are getting pretty long,So I really need Like 300 dollars for Little buddy and then I found out I have to renew my virus protection on my computer which is 120 dollars,and I just dont have the money to cover everything,I dont have enough money to cover both items, and cannot even buy christmas gifts for anyone,But if someone could please help me out with 400 to 500 dollars that would make my christmas a lot brighter,and if some one doesnt believe me about little buddy test and heart medication they can give the money right to the vet,its pawpaw veterinary clinic at 31690 E. Red arrow Highway ,pawpaw, mich 49079,Phone is 657-3114 and my dogs name is LittleBuddy, I sure hope somebody can help me out cause I do not know what I am going to do if I can't come up with an extra 500 dollars to cover everything especially with christmas so close, Please Please Help,thankyou for taking the time to read this

Hi, Im a single mom of 8 with 4 of them still at home a girl 16, a girl 10, a girl 7 and a boy 1. The last couple of years we have been thru alot of changes, including my two middle girls grandma passing away last year and their dad got addicted to drugs (which caused us to split up) and him going to prison at the beginning of this year. We also had to move a few months ago to a new town and I also cared for their grandmother that lived with us so I was a stay at home mom their whole lives, I've had to return to work outside of the home, so the kids have been thru some major changes over the last couple of years. I do work but sometimes its a struggle just to pay the bills, put food on the table, buy necessities and make sure the kids have the things they need, that any extras isn't possible. My family would be grateful for any help this Christmas, I would love for the kids to have some gifts to open on Christmas maybe some clothes, a toy, a stocking with some candy, diapers and wipes and a Christmas dinner/groceries anything would be greatly appreciated. Thank you from a struggling mom.

I am 68 years old my husband is 67 years old. We have been married 42 years now. We have 3 kids and 6 grandchildren. I dont know where to start. I dont know what to do. I feel like giving up on life and everything every thing just keeps gitting worse. It all started last winter Jan 2024. Every thing that could break, broke. Every thing that broke wasnt cheap to fix. My husband started having health issues in 2020. He needs a shoulder replacement, a knee replacement, he has lipedema in both legs but his right leg is so big, he has a hard time walking he uses a cane and walker. He is in so much pain. His doctor is setting him an appointment with a specialist. I just had a CT scan and there is problems and my doctor is setting up for me to see 2 different specialist. We have been struggling almost 2 years. We just keep falling farther,& father behind. My husband had 2 older cars. He had for years. He planed on restoring the cars when he retired. We had to sell both just trying to pay bills and food till we would get our next social sec money deposited in our bank. We didnt get much for the cars. The cars were a 67 mustang and a 72 monte carlo. They needed so much work and money. The cars had been in the barn for many years. It tore my heart out to see the look on his face as he sold them. We have sold so many things that we had just to make it every month. We have lived here for 30 years now. We have never lived beyond our means. If things got tight we could work over time or take on a second job. There is no way we could work now. I had 3 back surgeries. The last one they put rods in my lower back and it never got better. I still have so much pain. If our health was good we both would have went back to work. I never had to have expensive material stuff. My washer,dryer,and refridgerator are over 20 years old. They were used when we bought them. Our furniture is over 35 years old. My 2004 ford taurus is broke down and marks 1995 ford ranger is dead to. Plus no money to insure them even if they worked. We are down to a 2006 mercery. Its so frighting to drive the roters and break pads are grinding. They are just about threw. We dont go to far from home. We cant afford to buy roters or even break pads. It needs spark plugs and wires. I call that car galloping gerdy. It jerks going down the road and i have no idea how long thats going to last but we been driving it along time now. I dont know how he and i are going to be able to see these specialist doctors cause i know their not in bangor. We run out of money before our checks get deposit. But the bank lets us go over a bit but its the over draft charges that are hurting us. There are some months we had to barrow money from a friend but then we have to pay it back. So we get more behind. We are using our stove and 2 small heaters to heat our home. We didnt have the money to pay off the propane company so they come out and took the tank. I wash dishes in the bath tub cause the kitchen sink pipes broke and the bathroom sink pipes are broke. Our house was built about 1900 and things are falling apart. We have put some land up for sale late aug (i think) but nothing is happening. We have a1995 dodge plow truck that we are trying to sell but some thing broke that runs the plow. Some thing to do with wire and fuses. Hes trying to figure it out but now its cold and snowing and he cant be out there walking around in snow. We got that plow truck so we didnt have to shovel snow. The truck is rusted bad but the truck runs and the plow use to work. I dont know what we are going to do if we get alot of snow if we sell the truck. We have no money now we are at our limit with the bank. We are out of food. We have 2 doggies one is out side and 1 is inside. I have 1 kitty inside and she is old but dont act like it. And some kitties out side. Most have been dumped off on us. I wish i could catch them, cause if i catch them they are going to wish they were never born. We are out of cat and dog food. I have no money for my precriptions. He has a dr appointment today at intercare in bangor and there is a nurse there that has some information that might get us some help. She is a very nice person. I hope and pray the car makes it there and back. I tried to get help from welfare office but we make a little over the poor line. I told them what we are going through but it didnt matter. I thought thats why welfare was set up is to help every one thats suffering like us. I am so tired i cant sleep all i do is cry, worried about everything,scared that we are not going to make it. Hollidays are coming up and i have given up even thinking about it. If i do i cry. It hurts him to see me so sad all the time,being so depressed.He feels like he let me down and cant get us out of this horrible situation. I try real hard to keep positive but i am falling apart.I know he is to. Its been so long and so hard for us. We pray all the time about this. Every time i walk in a store i see they raised the price on every thing. Gas goes up, our electric goes up, we are behind on the electric but its still around 400 bucks. State farm is now charging us over 200 bucks for house insurance. Use to be 100 bucks but i took our car off state farm and got the hartford insurance threw aarp. It was so much cheaper. So state farm just keeps going up. Some thing about bundling.I hope i am doing this cell phone thing right. Our son gave me his old phone cause he was tired of me being old school. But i am learning a few things.Its a older cell phone it has some problems but i am learning. My husband doesnt have one but maybe someday. I am so embarrassed and a shamed for asking for help. I am praying for help. I hope you can help.

To whom it my concern,

Do to the fact I lost my snaps benefit. Do to the government shut down. My Christmas dinner does not seem possible this year. Then I saw your help letter in the Paw Paw flashes. And thought I would try. But this year is my son last Christmas at home. Because he is moving to Florida for school. And I was going to make a really nice Christmas dinner for him one last time. And if I could get help for that. I would really appreciate it. Thoughts and prayers.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Commissioners approve purchase of new cargo van for Sheriff's Office

By Paul Garrod
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PAW PAW - On Nov. 11, Van Buren County Commissioners approved a request for the purchase of a 2025 Ford low roof cargo van for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Drain Crew.

Commissioners said the current van is not operational and not safe to drive. The replacement of this vehicle is necessary for the continued safe and efficient operation of the Drain Crew throughout the county.

The vehicle purchase is included as an approved Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year. The total cost of the vehicle is $51,815.

Commissioners also approved a request to purchase new dispatch radio equipment from Roe-Comm Communications with Transit funds to replace aging, obsolete equipment. Transit's current dispatch radio equipment is aging and obsolete, with parts no longer available, and was first purchased in 2008 with additional equipment purchased in 2013.

Quotes were obtained from Roe-Comm and Tele-Rad, with Roe-Comm coming in with the lowest price. The total cost of the equipment is $35,058.

Commissioners approved a request from county employee Jim Charon to purchase five years of additional service credit to be paid from his Fidelity 457 funds.

Charon requested approval from commissioners to use his 457 monies to purchase five years of service for the purpose of obtaining vesting in the MERS Pension Plan.

On May 26, 2015, commissioners adopted a resolution allowing a participant to purchase up to a total of five years of additional service for individual employee requests.

The Fidelity Plan provides in Section 9.04 that a participant may direct the trustee to transfer all or a portion of his/her account to a governmental defined benefit plan for the purchase of permissive services credit.

Commissioners approved the FY 25-26 SWMBH Net Cost Agreement for Substance Use Disorder Services. SWMBH Net Cost Agreement for Substance Use Disorder Services is an annual contract funded through PA2 and supports the Van Buren County Circuit Court, Specialty Court. The anticipated funding for FY 25-26 is $71,466, an increase from $69,765 in the previous year.

Rotarians observe Peace Pole Day

South Haven Rotarians gathered to observe the internationally recognized Peace Pole Day on Saturday, Nov. 22. The day honored the birthday of Masahisa Goi, the founder of the "May Peace Prevail on Earth" movement. The Peace Poles are a global symbol, displaying the message "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in various languages. There are over 250,000 peace poles in nearly 200 countries around the world. South Haven's peace pole, appearing in English and Spanish, is located in Stanley Johnston Park and was installed in 2024 by the Rotary Club of South Haven. Pictured are Rotarians John Merlein, Todd Heinrich and Amy Nichols. "The pole's presence is a beacon of positivity and a constant reminder to not only imagine what could be, but to work towards a common goal of a more harmonious future," said Merlein who headed the South Haven initiative. Photo by Tom Renner

Sistrunk reports on new name, visitors to South Haven

By James Windell

In case you didn't notice, the South Haven/Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau is now Visit South Haven.

The name on the front of their building reflects this name change, and in a report on the activities of Visit South Haven this year, Executive Director Jennifer Sistrunk told the City Council on Monday, November 17, 2025, that the former name was "a real mouthful."

Sistrunk said the functions of her organization are now divided into two parts. One is Visit South Haven, to promote tourists coming to South Haven, and the other is Destination Paw Paw.

The change in name reflects a broader trend among tourism organizations to move away from the "Convention and Visitors Bureau" terminology, which tends to sound more formal and more business-oriented. The name "Visit South Haven" emphasizes leisure travel and community identity.

Kendra Kingsbury, Guest Relations and Community Liaison for Visit South Haven, explained recently that the name change "Really means that we cover South Haven and Paw Paw as our two jurisdictions. We market and celebrate both cites."

Kingsbury said that by splitting the brand, they could be "more intentional about our marketing." South Haven and Paw Paw, Kingsbury pointed out, are very different and they offer very different things. "It was hard to group Paw Paw into South Haven marketing when Paw Paw does not have a beach like we do and they have different wineries than South Haven has."

In her remarks to the City Council, Sistrunk said in an average year South Haven attracts about 1.7 million visitors and seven million total visits.

"But we've seen that flatline, we are seeing the unique visitors decline," she said. "One of our theories as to why that's happening is we found is that people are coming to South Haven, they're visiting, they're falling in love, and they're moving here. They're living here."

Sistrunk went on to say that Visit South Haven wants to get a better handle on those numbers, using AI technology to identify visitors based on phone data.

In terms of accomplishments this year, Visit South Haven has replaced the billboard at Exit 18 on I-196 to attract beachgoers, purchased two beach wheelchairs that have been used by 103 people, given out $15,000 in accessibility grants, and maintained funding for the city's holiday lights. In addition, Visit South Haven promoted the various festivals, such as Icebreaker, were actively involved in the purchase of Riverwoods recreation area, promoted and publicized the Porter Legacy Dunes project as a new natural attraction for visitors, and purchased the land at the corner of Phoenix Street and Broadway to build a new building.

Sistrunk said that South Haven needs to develop a year around economy and to help accomplish that "We need an indoor event space for winter and spring activities."

Sistrunk noted that Visit South Haven receives no tax dollars for its activities. Instead it receives funding from a 5% assessment on overnight stays in South Haven.

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Van Buren Tech DECA students complete first-ever Thanksgiving food drive

LAWRENCE - Van Buren Tech DECA students successfully completed their first-ever Thanksgiving Food Drive, organizing and distributing 110 boxed Thanksgiving meals for families from partnering school districts in Van Buren, Cass, and Berrien counties. The project highlighted the qualities of DECA members, who are academically prepared, community-oriented, professionally responsible, and experienced leaders.

DECA is a national student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. At Van Buren Tech, DECA includes students in the Business, Management & Administration and Marketing, Sales & Business programs. This project allowed students to apply classroom skills to a real-world initiative that directly benefits their community, demonstrating the meaningful impact students can make when they collaborate, set goals, and put their talents into action.

With guidance from VBT staff, students led every aspect of the project. They selected food items, shopped for additional groceries, assembled and filled each meal box, and organized the distribution.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, volunteer DECA members managed the drive at Van Buren Tech, ensuring the event ran smoothly.

Van Buren Tech and DECA each expressed their thanks to all businesses, community members, students, and staff who donated their time, monetary contributions, or food items to make the drive possible. VBT staff alone contributed over $1,000 to support the project. A special thank you was extended to Jake's Country Meats, Pepsi, Sam's Club, Arvco Container Corporation, Gordon Food Service Store, Special-Lite, Terrill's Market, Refresco North America, Southwest Michigan Center for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, and B & B Grocery Outlet for their generous support.

Van Buren Tech and DECA are truly grateful to everyone who helped make the first Thanksgiving Food Drive a success.

South Haven City Council amends revised STR Fee Schedule

By James Windell

Both a new Short Term Rental (STR) ordinance and a STR fee schedule were approved by the South Haven City Council earlier this year. With this new ordinance, current STR rental owners will need to receive a zoning compliance determination in order to be licensed under the new ordinance. Many STR owners thought that the new fees were, to say the least, excessive.

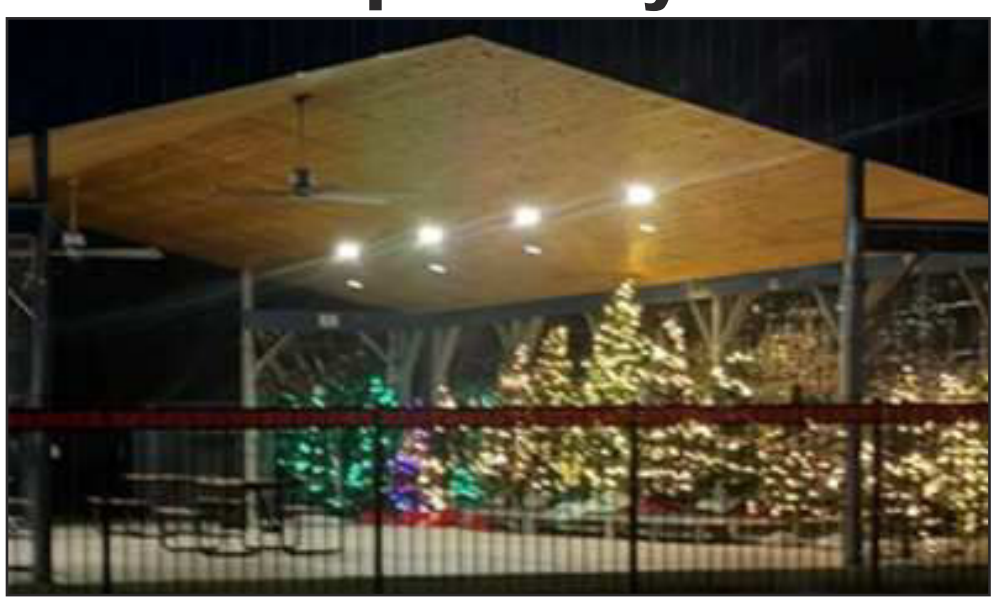
The rationale offered by City staff in a previous meeting when the fees were discussed was that the new fees were needed in order to cover staff and legal time required to review each application was found to be an overestimation. During the first few months of reviewing applications, it was found that it was only taking about two hours of legal time. Consequently, process STR applications.

At the South Haven City Council meeting on November 17, 2025, a resolution was introduced to reduce some of the fees because the original estimate of four hours properties that receive special land use approval. Other staff-recommended amendments to the fee schedule include a reduced fee for subsequent zoning compliance determination (from $250 to $50), and the removal of the escrow the proposed fee for zoning compliance determination would be reduced from $900 to $450. The amended fee schedule also clarified that an initial zoning compliance fee will not be charged to component for appeal hearings.

The Resolution 2025-37, to approve an amended fee schedule, which was recommended bv City staff, was put to a vote after little discussion by City Council members. It passed unanimously.

STR applicants who paid the $900 initial zoning compliance determination fee of $900 will be refunded $450.

Pullman celebrates with Lee Township Holiday Social



Volunteers appeared at the Pullman Town Square to begin decorating the trees in preparation for the Lee Township Holiday Social on Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, from 5-7pm. Come for dinner and vist with Santa! Photo courtesy of Beautify Pullman.

By Gari Voss

On December 6, 2025, from 5-7pm, Pullman will transform into a magical winter wonderland where everyone can share a warm holiday meal with family, friends, and neighbors, and every child can experience the joy of meeting Santa.

The evening will include music, fire pits, a hot holiday dinner buffet, lighting of the Christmas trees, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will magically arrive on a Lee Township fire truck!

Every child 12 and under will have the opportunity to visit with Santa and receive a wrapped gift selected especially for them. A heated tent will be available for dining.

This is what community is all about — sharing joy, kindness, and togetherness. We can't wait to celebrate!

Everyone is encouraged to join the FREE celebration, but Santa and his elves ask that people take a moment to sign up. This will ensure that there is enough food and presents for everyone. https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/lee-township-holiday-social--2025.

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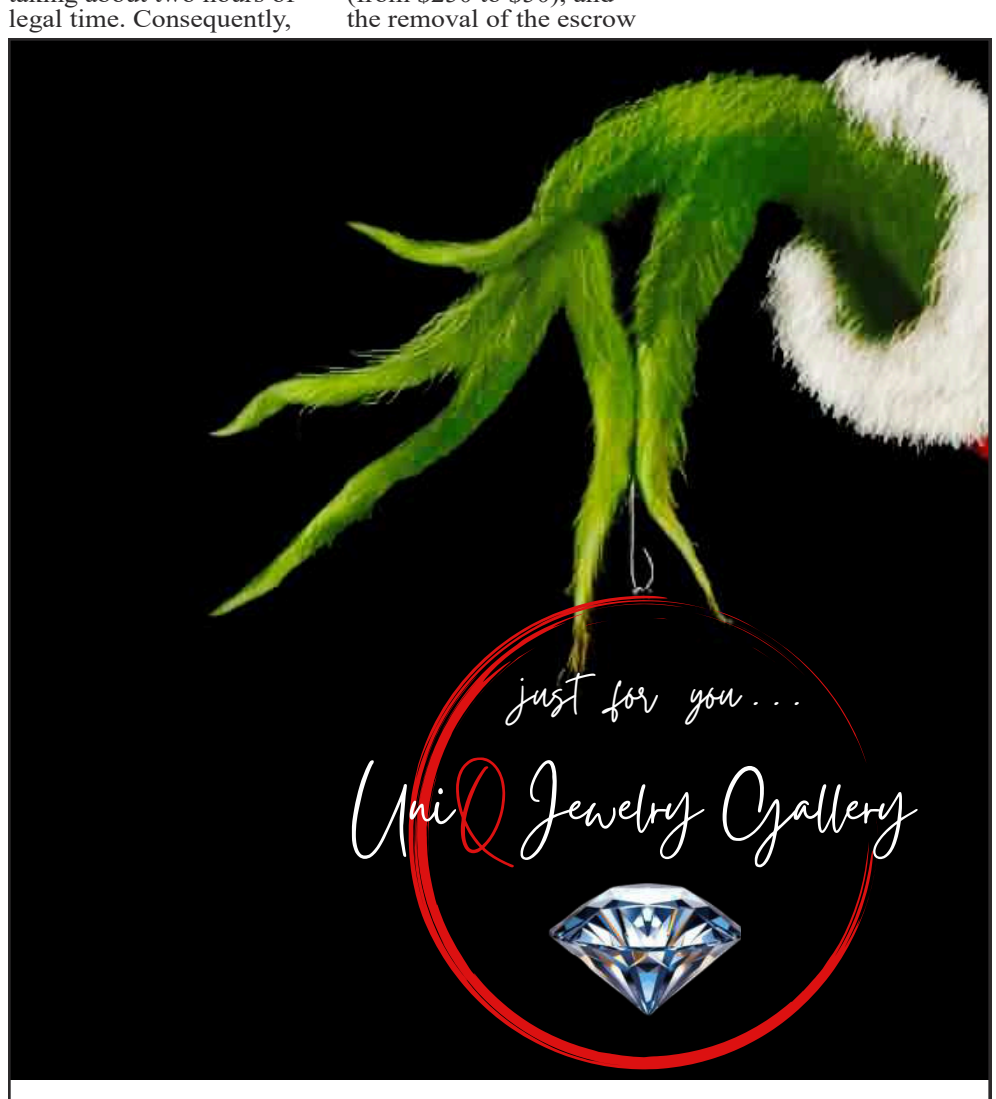

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SPORTS

Road Commission Paint the Plow winner announced

South Haven Baseline Middle School Paint the Plow Winner

South Haven Baseline Middle School, South Haven received 591 votes or 32.6 percent of the total votes in the Second Annual Paint the Plow outreach program developed to promote winter driving safety and general road safety, as well as to create awareness of transportation career opportunities.

The Van Buren County Road Commission invited the public to vote on their favorite painted plow from five participating middle schools: Bloomingdale Middle School, Decatur Middle School, Gobles Middle School, Lawrence Middle School, and South Haven Middle School.

The public was encouraged to vote through an online survey posted on the Van Buren County Road Commission's website at: www.vbcrc.org/paintaplow. Voting opened Friday, Nov. 14, and ended through Friday, Nov. 21.

Participation was limited to one vote per person. The plow that received the most votes was deemed "Van Buren County Favorite." South Haven Baseline Middle School will receive a pizza party paid for by Van Buren County Road Commission Managing Director, Bret Witkowski.

"The Road Commission's Paint the Plow Program is a great way to foster appreciation for school art programs and student creativity, as well as to bring attention to the important issue of safe driving during the winter months," said Witkowski. "Residents are encouraged to look for these decorated snowplows during parades and community events, and during winter maintenance operations for heavy snow events."

The painted plows are on display (under surveillance) at the Van Buren County Road Commission's Lawrence Garage, 325 West James Street, Lawrence. All are welcome and encouraged to come and look at the students' creativity and talent.

Benefit for Eleanor's Pantry to be held

PAW PAW – The Lucky Wolf, Paw Paw, recently announced its first-ever Cookies and Cocoa and Christmas! Party to benefit Eleanor's Pantry. The event will include an appearance by southwest Michigan resident, author and playwright Denise McGowan Tracy reading passages from her book, Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish, a holiday singalong led by Lucky Wolf fan favorite Michael Rubin, cookies and cocoa, and more on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the café, 404 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

"Eleanor" is the perfect book for anyone who believes that wishes do come true. This heartfelt, humorous book tells the story of a ragdoll who lives in the magical world of The North Pole. She loves her North Pole family yet has one wish – a universal wish - for a best friend and home of her own. With help from Santa's elves, Eleanor realizes that wishing is not enough. You must take action to make your dreams come true. This lesson and a love of cookies are sprinkled throughout the story teaching children – and reminding their grown-ups – of the importance of family, friends and so much more.

Attendees are encouraged to decorate then fill a grocery box with your family's favorite holiday recipe and all the non-perishables to bake that holiday magic including flour, sugar, vanilla extract, cinnamon, chocolate chips, brown sugar and more. The boxes will be collected by Eleanor's Pantry then distributed to families in need around the Paw Paw and Lawton area this holiday season. Boxes may also be dropped at the pantry, 221 Drew St., Paw Paw, on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. from now until Dec. 15.

"We're delighted to host this event to share the joy of the holidays through Eleanor's story and the fun of a good old holiday sing along. It's a great opportunity for us to help those in our community by reminding children, and their grown-ups, of the joy of giving through our food pantry collection," said The Lucky Wolf owner Jason Deibler-Love. "Oh, and rumor has it that a very special guest may be dropping by on his way to The North Pole."

The holiday singalong will be led by The Lucky Wolf fan favorite Michael Rubin at piano with Denise on vocals.

"We are so thankful for the collaborative effort on this amazing event...to Denise for her inspiration and support to transform this from an idea to an actual event...and to Jason and staff at The Lucky Wolf to host and donate their time and energy to make this happen. Not only will it bring some extra special holiday cheer to the community, but it will provide our pantry guests with the ingredients they need to prepare holiday cookies, which for most families is a holiday tradition," said Sue Miller, the pantry's executive director.

Guests at the event will be able to purchase signed, personalized copies of the book on site.

Additionally, gift packages including a copy of the book, "Eleanor" ornament and themed merchandise will also be available.

Celebrating Hanukkah in South Haven

The First Hebrew Congregation of South Haven will host its annual Hanukkah on Broadway celebration on Sunday, December 21 from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm. This year's theme is The Crazy 8th Day and will feature magician John Dudley, a lunch including a variety of traditional and not so traditional latkes, a satirical Broadway first act show-The Great Debate: Latke vs Hamantashen, a parade of crazy Hanukkah sweaters, ties and hats, Hanukkah candlelighting and a sing-a-long.

Families should bring a menorah and candles to light. The First Hebrew Congregation is also asking guests to bring new or lightly worn winter coats, boxes and cans of food and pet supplies for a Winter Tzedakah Drive. Donation boxes will be set up at the synagogue located at 249 Broadway.

Reservations must be made online by December 17. Visit www.firsthebrewcongregation.org.

Prosecutor handles 82 felony cases in October

For the month of October 2025:

Misdemeanor cases authorized - 160

Felony cases authorized - 82

Authorizations by category (not all inclusive):

Absconding on Bond - Felony - 1

Assault

- Misdemeanor Assault - 15
- Assault with a Dangerous Weapon - 15
- Resisting/Obstructing/Assaulting a Police Officer - 9
- Assault with Intent to Do Great Bodily Harm - 5

Breaking and Entering/Home Invasion - 8

Criminal Sexual Conduct – All Degrees - 5

Child Abuse - 3

Domestic Violence

- Misdemeanor - 25
- Felony - 1

Fleeing and Eluding a Police Officer - 4

Larceny

- Larceny/Retail Fraud – Misdemeanor - 25
- Larceny/Retail Fraud – Felony - 7
- Unlawful Driving Away of a Vehicle/Unlawful Use - 4

Operating while impaired/intoxicated

- Misdemeanor - 15
- Felony - 2

Possession/Delivery of a controlled substance other than methamphetamine - 3

Possession/Delivery of Methamphetamine - 10

Weapons Charges - 5

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VIEWPOINT

Congress works parttime, but receives fulltime pay

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Every year, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate release their official calendars, and every year the same disbelief follows: this is how many days our elected lawmakers plan to work?

I saw the House of Representatives schedule for next year and was aghast. I knew they weren't in session during August and around the Christmas holiday season, but my mouth dropped when I saw the 2026 schedule.

For an institution responsible for crafting laws, approving budgets, and overseeing a massive federal government, Congress spends shockingly few days actually in session.

In a typical year, the House gavels in for roughly 110–130 days. The Senate meets slightly more, often averaging around 150. Compare that to the standard American worker who puts in 240-plus workdays annually, and it becomes clear that our legislative branch operates on a schedule that would make even the most generous corporate HR manager blush.

I don't mind that they don't craft additional laws. In my opinion there are too many on the books. But didn't we just endure the longest government shutdown in history, only to extend the budget down the road until the end of January? Shouldn't our legislators be hard at work, solidifying that budget, or will we face another shutdown in January?

Defenders are quick to point out that members of Congress work in their districts when they're not in Washington. Yes, district work is important—meeting constituents, attending events, and staying connected to local issues. But no matter how you spin it, Washington is where legislation is written, budgets are negotiated, hearings are held, and national problems are solved. And Washington is where Congress simply doesn't spend enough time.

The consequences are visible. Major legislation sits stalled, not because disagreements can't be resolved, but because lawmakers spend too little time in the same building to resolve them. It is difficult to negotiate compromises or build relationships when members pack up and fly home every Thursday afternoon.

A shorter work calendar also fuels political dysfunction. When Congress is barely in session, every day becomes a high-stakes, high-drama performance. There's no time for patience, no time for careful review, and certainly no time for the kind of bipartisan conversations that used to happen organically, often after hours or between votes. Today, the congressional clock is so compressed that every issue is treated like an emergency—but few are actually solved.

Worse, Congress' abbreviated schedule sends a message, intentionally or not: that governing is a side job, not a full-time responsibility. Imagine the reaction if teachers, firefighters, nurses, or factory workers announced they would be on the job only a few days each month. Yet the people responsible for appropriating trillions of dollars and passing laws affecting 330 million Americans operate exactly that way.

Imagine receiving $170,000 and health and retirement benefits for life for a side gig. No wonder so many people. It's utterly ridiculous, but hey, it's our money that pays these politicians. We need to force them to earn it.

It doesn't have to be like this. A serious, modern Congress should—at minimum—double its time in Washington. The institution needs to function more like a real workplace: more debate, more bipartisan committees meeting, more room for negotiations, and more accountability for accomplishing what they were elected to do. Democracy is not strengthened by absentee governance.

Americans expect productivity, accountability, and results from their representatives. The first step toward that is simple: show up. If Congress wants to regain the public's trust, it should start by working the number of days worthy of the job.

Sheriff's Report- Larceny of package reported in Columbia Township

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a larceny of a package from a residence in Columbia Township. "Anyone with any information on this is asked to call our office," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic call that was happening in a vehicle traveling on Interstate 94 highway in Hartford Township. Deputies were able to locate the vehicle and get it stopped. After investigating the incident, the driver was found to be intoxicated. "It was also discovered that he had a temporary protection order out of New York Police Department with the victim in the vehicle. He was lodged for operating under the influence of alcohol, open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, no driver's license, and PPO violation," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an E-Bike versus car crash. The driver of the E-Bike ran into a vehicle at an intersection after he failed to stop. The driver of the E-Bike was lodged for operating under the influence of alcohol.

Uniform Response handled a 911 hang-up call in Lawrence Township. Upon investigation, no charges were filed for the incident taking place. However, the male half of the situation had two warrants for his arrest out of Berrien County. He was lodged on the warrants.

Uniform Response handled a bond violation/court conditions in Waverly Township. The suspect who is currently in jail had a third party contact the victim in the domestic assault case that is pending on him. He now faces additional charges.

Uniform Response handled an attempted UDAA in Arlington Township. The victim was out hunting, and an unknown suspect stole a part off an interlock device while trying to steal the vehicle. "Deputies are actively working the case awaiting pictures from the interlock company of the suspect," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a civil property dispute in the Village of Lawrence. The complaint was about an easement and dirt being moved. "Based on the facts, they were advised it's a civil issue and to take up in civil court if they wanted to go that route," said Sheriff Abbott.

"With the holiday season coming upon us, just a friendly reminder to look out for loved ones and friends. Unfortunately, this time of the year, people get severely depressed at times. There are resources available to help those in need. The last thing we want to see is someone having regrets from a tragic situation because they didn't want to say anything or get involved," said Sheriff Abbott.

Two men face several charges, including larceny

HARTFORD - Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported on Nov. 22, at approximately 9:20 a.m., a Van Buren County Sheriff's deputy was dispatched to a business in the 67000 block of Red Arrow Highway in Hartford Township for a report of a theft that had just occurred.

The property owner was notified by his security cameras that people were on the property. He reported seeing two subjects on camera as they entered the property and stole multiple items including a welder, metal poles, and various wiring.

The victim was able to provide the deputy with a vehicle and suspect description from the security cameras. The suspect vehicle was located a short time later driving on Red Arrow Highway in the area of the theft.

The deputy conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and observed the stolen property that had been described by the victim. During the investigation, the deputy also located other stolen property that had been taken from a power company work site. Interviews were conducted with both suspects and they both admitted to taking the property.

Both subjects, a 57-year-old Benton Harbor man and a 62-year-old Coloma man, were arrested and transported to the Van Buren County Jail on charges of larceny from a building, larceny, receiving and concealing stolen property, and trespassing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Importance of Shopping Local This Holiday Season

Dear Editor,

As the holiday season approaches, members of the Indivisible Paw Paw would like to encourage our community to consider the impact of shopping locally. Supporting small businesses not only helps our neighbors and friends who own and operate them but also strengthens our local economy. Every purchase made at a local shop helps to create jobs and keeps more money circulating within our town, rather than sending it elsewhere.

By choosing to not shop at large retailers such as Home Depot, Amazon, and Target this holiday season, we can make a powerful statement in support of our local businesses. Redirecting our spending away from national chains helps ensure our dollars have a lasting, positive impact within our own community.

Local stores offer unique, thoughtful gifts and personalized service that large chains often cannot match. When we choose to shop local, we invest in the character and health of our community. Holiday spending can make a real difference – helping small businesses weather challenging times and ensuring they remain part of our vibrant downtown for years to come.

Let's make this holiday season about more than just gifts. By shopping locally, we show that we care about our neighbors and the future of our community. We hope everyone will join in making a conscious effort to shop small this year. Take action and show, "We Ain't Buying It!"

Sincerely,
Indivisible Paw Paw

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WILCOX NEWSPAPERS, LLC
PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 657-3072 • wilcoxnewspapers.com

Publisher - Mike Wilcox
Graphics- Liz LaValle
Reporter - Paul Garrod & James Windell
IT - Jordan Wilcox

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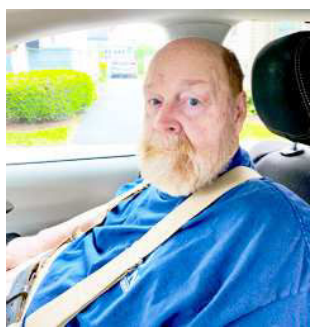
OBITUARIES

Alfred G. "Al" Hone



Alfred G. Hone, 87, of Warren, Pa, formerly of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died on Wednesday November 19, 2025, in the Warren Manor after a brief illness.

He was born in Traverse City, Michigan on August 24, 1938, the son of the late Frances Elizabeth and Grant Music. Al was a graduate of Battle Creek High School and then graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor's in music. He served his country in the United States Air Force where he was a Trombonist in the Air Force Band. One of Al's first jobs was working as an Iron Worker on the construction of the Mackinac Bridge in Michigan.

He retired from Paw Paw High School as the Band Director, working for over 30 years. Al was a trombonist with the Kalamazoo Concert Band as well. He was an avid sportsman, outdoorsmen, and photographer. He also was a collector of fishing reels, binoculars, and cameras, but his main passion in life was music especially classical music. In 2014, he and Monica relocated to Warren, PA.

On August 20, 1966, in St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, he married the love of his life, Monica Bruce Hone, and they spent 59 loving years together.

In addition to his loving wife, Monica, Al is survived by his son, David F. Hone and wife Noelle, of Warren, PA, and one sister, Ruth Music of Petoskey, MI.

Funeral services will be private and held at the convenience of the Family. Burial with full military honors will be in Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek, Michigan. E-mail condolences may be sent by visiting www.lewisfuneralhomeinc.com. The Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home Inc. has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

Kathy Perkins

On Nov. 19, 2025, Kathy left us unexpectedly and left behind many of us who loved her for being herself. Kathy was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 6, 1950, to Phyllis and Marvin Stinson.

Kathy spent her childhood in Clearfield, Utah, with her family. Upon graduating from high school, she attended The University of Utah, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She later earned a second bachelor's degree at Weber State University. She was driven to help others, especially physically and mentally challenged, and did so until retiring from the workforce. Upon retirement she cared for her family, including her mother, father, and mother-in-law until their passing.

In 2007, she and her husband moved from Utah to Lawton, MI, to be near her only son and daughter-in-law as they were expecting their first child, Kathy's only beloved grandchild, Haydn. Kathy enjoyed living in Michigan, seeing her son become a father, and being a Yia Yia to her grandson, being with him as he has grown into a young adult about to graduate from high school. Kathy had an enigmatic love of animals her entire life, always wanting to build her own animal rescue out of her home. She loved all living things, and believed even the smallest creatures, especially cats, bunnies, dogs and even mice needed her to thrive.

She leaves behind her beloved husband, Ron Perkins of 50 years; her son, Kristofer Perkins; his lovely wife, Korrie (Haney) Perkins; and her cherished grandson, Haydn Perkins. She also leaves behind her brother, Jerry Stinson (Kay) of Long Beach, California.

Kathy is preceded in death by her parents, Phyllis and Marvin Stinson.

Family and friends were invited to visit on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. The family asked those who wished to attend to wear jeans and T-shirts, as Kathy would want everyone to be comfortable.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Kathy may be directed to the Kalamazoo Cat Cafe, Kalamazoo Animal Rescue Project, SPCA of Southwest Michigan or an animal charity of the donor's choice.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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Get into the spirit with Holiday in the Park

By James Windell

It may be Black Friday to some, but not to Visit South Haven.

Friday, November 28, the day after Thanksgiving, is the day the festivities in South Haven begin.

"It is our kickoff to the holidays," says Kendra Kingsbury, Guest Relations and Community Liaison for Visit South Haven, formerly the South Haven/Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Holiday in the Park is always on Black Friday every year and it's a way to encourage people to come out and join us in town for fun."

Kingsbury says that thousands of lights will transform Dyckman Park, 546 Phoenix Street, in downtown South Haven, into a festive lakeside wonderland as events are held around town. "The party will start at 11:00 am when the Mistletoe Market opens at the South Haven Center for the Arts, where there is a wonderfully curated markets of goods by artists."

That's followed by Corewell Health Hospice's Luminary Stroll that goes from noon to 8:00 pm. "Corewell Health Hospice puts out the luminaries, which Phoenix Street and go down toward Black River. It's a wonderful way of remembering our loved ones who have gone before us. You can purchase a luminary to remember someone important to you."

Beginning at 2:00 pm and going to 4:00 pm is the Snow Globe Ornament Making workshop at the South Haven Center for the Arts. "That going to be such a fun thing for children and their families to do together," says Kingsbury.

At 4:30 pm is the Claus and Paws Holiday Parade. "This is when my favorite time of the day starts," says Kingsbury, "and that's when we have our Claus and Paws Parade. We partner with Decadent Dogs, the local dog store here in town, and we shut the street down and we gather by Hello Books and do a short little parade down Phoenix Street to Dyckman Park. Dogs and their owners will be dressed in hilarious costumes."

This year, she says, there will be a $500 prize for the Best Entry in the Parade. "It's kind of open to however people want to interpret that," she says. "People can have a theme as they dress up themselves and their dogs for the parade. The sky's the limit in terms of what people want to do."

Following the parade – and the arrival of Santa riding in a Mustang -- is the Tree Lighting Ceremony at City Hall at 5:30 pm. People can get their photos taken by the lighted tree, enjoy the S'mores Station at the park, and take pictures with Santa at Dyckman Park.

"We hope people will come out, see the parade, take photos with Santa, and ee the parade, take photos with Santa, and have a good time being a community with each other," says Kingsbury.

For more information, check out the Holiday in the Park website at **https://www.southhaven.org/events/holiday-in-the-park/**

Scholarships awarded to support healthcare careers at Bronson South Haven

Pictured are scholarship award recipients, along with leaders from Bronson South Haven Hospital, Bronson Health Foundation and the South Haven Health System Advisory Board.

Twelve employees at Bronson South Haven Hospital have been awarded a total of $15,000 in scholarships to advance their healthcare careers.

Each employee received between $150-2,000, which will support a variety of educational and development opportunities including:

- Nursing school tuition
- Business management courses for healthcare leadership
- Re-certifications for rehab support and medical assistants
- Radiology technician education
- Continued education for personal training
- Respiratory care tuition

These scholarships were made possible thanks to the South Haven Health System Legacy Donor Advised Fund, established in 2021 through Bronson Health Foundation. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to Bronson South Haven Hospital employees, particularly lower income employees, who are seeking to advance their career at Bronson.

"These dedicated team members are investing in their own growth, and that benefits everyone," says Dr. Richard Allen, a member of the South Haven Health System Advisory Board which established the donor advised fund. These scholarship awards mark the distribution of the final remaining assets of the former South Haven Community Hospital. "Each scholarship helps strengthen the future of healthcare in the South Haven community."

"We are so grateful to these community leaders with long-time ties to the area who have chosen to use these legacy funds to support today's employees," says Dr. Matthew Dommer, chief operating officer and vice president for medical affairs for Bronson South Haven and Bronson LakeView Hospitals.

HELPFUL FINANCIAL ADVICE FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN SPAIN

You won't see Peter Dougherty's certificates and diplomas. He doesn't display them. You won't see that in October 2025 he became a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® practitioner in the United States. Nor will you see that he was awarded the European Financial Planner certificate of EFPA España, Spain's top financial planning credential, in 2021.

It's not that Dougherty enjoys taking rigorous six-hour tests any more than the next person. His motivation for becoming a CFP® professional as well as a European Financial Planner in Spain is that he works at BISSAN Wealth Management in Spain assisting Americans who live in the country. His clients are subject to financial regulations on both sides of the Atlantic, so it's important that he have in-depth knowledge in both Spain and the U.S.

This is a story about Peter Dougherty, Financial Planner at BISSAN Wealth Management –- but he prefers talking about his clients rather than himself.

"I want to learn from my clients," he says, "hear about their goals and dreams. Our mission is to translate each client's wishes, goals and dreams into numbers. That allows us – given their salary, spending, investments, savings and other factors – to determine if and how these goals can be financed."

How many financial advisers put the interests of their clients first? Dougherty believes that BISSAN Wealth Management is one of the few that truly does. In fact, he says that the firm designed its business model around client service: "Our experience has proven that clients benefit enormously when comprehensive financial planning guides their investment strategy. Bypassing the initial step – financial planning – is like jumping on a train without knowing which direction it's going."

BISSAN's successful approach is based on "goal-based investing", a financial planning strategy that aligns investment decisions with specific, personal financial goals, instead of focusing solely on maximizing returns or beating the market. BISSAN assists clients in identifying financial goals like retirement or buying a home. Each of these goals is matched with a specific investment portfolio based on time horizon, risk and return needed to meet the goal. That allows the firm to measure how well a client is on track to achieve each specific goal, not how the portfolio's performance is tracking versus a market index.

Peter Dougherty joined BISSAN's team of financial planners in January 2023. He was very deliberate in choosing where to work. To help Americans living in Spain with cross-border finance, he sought a financial firm with a solid grasp of the ins and outs of finance in Spain. This is exactly what he's done at BISSAN: his clients benefit from the access he provides to a team of experts knowledgeable about the peculiarities of financial planning in Spain.

Dougherty concludes, "Helping Americans who live in Spain means I need to work harder than many financial planners who assist only Americans in the U.S. or only Spaniards living in Spain. My clients face an additional level of difficulty because of differences in cross-border investment, tax and retirement rules. Typically, these Americans continue to face U.S. tax obligations in addition to Spanish tax obligations. Their investment options are limited because non-U.S. mutual funds and even some pensions are taxed unfavorably by the IRS. Further, Spain may tax their retirement distributions differently than the U.S. does. At BISSAN Wealth Management, we help clients navigate these complexities by means of intelligent, global financial planning."

Peter Dougherty, financial planner at BISSAN Wealth Management in Spain, is the author of two finance books: 'The Dougherty Code: Secrets of Financial Planning in Spain Revealed' and 'La Hoja de Ruta Fiscal y Financiera para los españoles en EE.UU.' (Spanish).

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SPORTS

Former Mattawan standout now at Kalamazoo College

Mattawan's Courtney Cutler is now at Kalamazoo College.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Courtney Cutler still has fond memories of the spring soccer season and is looking forward to a new career at Kalamazoo College.

Mattawan had a powerful girls soccer season last spring.

"It went great," Cutler said. "It was my best season in four years of playing. We ended up winning our district for the first time in 24 years. That was a big accomplishment for our school."

Cutler said the team was successful "because we had good mentality and a lot of us played together for a long time. It's the tightest our team has ever been. We focused on positives instead of negatives and uplifted each other. We had good leadership this year."

Mattawan was 15-2-2. A 2-1 win over Portage Central in the district semifinals was huge.

"They're our rival," Cutler said. "They knock us out of districts every year it was nice to finally win."

Cutler was a center-forward, which has always been her position. She had 15 goals and 15 assists. She scored a game-winner against Gull Lake.

"I'm very fast so I like to use (her speed) to the best of the ability," Cutler said. "I'm a pretty good shooter."

Cutler said she is now playing at Kalamazoo College. She was contacted by the coach and, "I visited and I decided I liked it there," Cutler said. "I'm very excited."

She went through an in-depth summer conditioning program to get ready for KC which plays soccer in the fall.

South Haven sophomore has bright future

Leif Arboreal scored the game-winner against Paw Paw in the district finals.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Leif Arboreal was a sophomore right midfielder for South Haven's varsity soccer team and greatly enjoyed a season in which the team went to the state title game.

"The team performed at a very high level all season with a few off games," Arboreal said. "This has been my best year with me hitting a goal of mine when I got my 10th goal. I also feel I contributed way more than last year. I've become more of a threat attacking and I've become more technically skilled

"My role was to defend the other team's left wing and also find ways to get up field and support my strikers. It's different from last year since I was more a central midfielder and not an outside mid."

Arboreal showed steady improvement.

"I was good at taking my defender on and picking out passes to my strikers," she said. "Technically I worked on my weak foot a lot and I also worked on my positioning a lot since I just moved to a new position."

It was a season of fond memories

"My most memorable moment was scoring the game winner against Paw Paw in the district final," Arboreal said. "Our biggest team highlight was either winning on senior night against a Division 1 school or beating Fennville in district final since they are our biggest rival. I have met my goals and i'm very excited to keep playing and get better.

"Our team has exceeded all of our goals this season. At first we wanted to win districts but then we just kept winning and ended up in the state final so i'm very grateful for that."

He only plays soccer.

"My favorite and best sport is soccer," Arboreal said. "I plan now to get ready for travel soccer."

Vogt finishes junior cross season on high note

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Christopher Vogt's cross country season was an outstanding one for Paw Paw.

Vogt, a junior, was a qualifier for the Red Wolves in the Division 2 state finals at the Michigan International Speedway. He qualified for the meet by placing 13th at the regionals and had a time of 16:35.0.

At the state finals Vogt was 79th with a time of 16:35.7. Earlier this month, he was 19th at the MITCA Michigan Meet of Champions in 16:21.7.

Vogt's personal record was recorded on Sept. 27 at the Bulldog Invitational with a time of 16:08.6. The following week he was first at the Allegan Invitational in 16:24.5. He was second at Thee Rivers in a meet in 16:49.9. He won the Gobles Invitational in 17:04.9.

Bloomingdale girls eye winning season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BLOOMINDALE — Bloomingdale girls basketball coach Tod Kubiszak said his staff has some work to do this season.

"Looking towards the 2025-2026 season we have some big holes to fill from last year's team," he said. "We are a very young team due to participation numbers being low this year. We will have one senior this season Meradi Bale. We will look to her to fill a guard spot for us in the early going.

"Emily Latham will be a big addition this year when she returns from an ACL tear last season. We will look to her to provide leadership and scoring.

Cadence Williams saw some varsity action last year as a freshman and looks to continue her progress during her sophomore year giving us some tenacity on our front line at forward.

"Taylor Blazys is a freshman that will add toughness to our team on the defensive end of the floor. Rebekah Youngblood is our other junior and will be a steady hand on both ends of the floor. Ruth Hodgeman is another sophomore who had playing time on the varsity last season and will continue growing into her role at the 2 guard. Each and every girl on this team will fill an integral role and contribute to the success of our team."

The girls basketball season started with practices on Nov. 19 and the schedule tips off in early December.

"We will field a very young team this year, mostly comprised of freshman and sophomores, but with the leadership of our few seniors and juniors we will be able to bring it all together," Kubiszak said. "I feel that our team strength will be youthful exuberance to play the game of basketball. I feel that our team is very young but with more practice and games we will be able to compete in our conference. We will round into a cohesive team as the season goes on. Our goals for this season are to grow as a team and continue to build our program and improve on last seasons record.

"Being new to the conference I am not too familiar with the other teams. I think Gobles, Centreville, Cassopolis are always tough and should continue to be that way. But you really can't dismiss anyone as the SW10 is very balanced. I think we have a tough road ahead as very young team playing other schools in the conference with much more experience than us. But we have the desire and I see these young ladies work every day and there is no quit in them. We will grow as a team as the season goes on. I have all the faith in the world in these girls and look forward to starting our season."

Lawton basketball faces tough schedule

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Matt Smith is boy's varsity basketball coach at Lawton and his team faces a tough schedule.

"We finished the year 7-15," he said of 2025. "Eight of our losses were by a single digit margin. We lost two starters from last year's team in Cole Burk & Kamden Olson. We will have to find players to fill their roles especially when it comes to rebounding.

"We return 1st Team All Conference point guard Hudson Merriman, as well as power forwards Gabe Newhouse and Tyler Hotchkiss. We also return our shooting guards Aiden Benzvidez & Brody Camp. We have an absolutely brutal schedule ahead of us this season. Just within our division we will play teams such as Schoolcraft, Hackett, Parchment and Kalamazoo Christian all twice. We will also face teams such as South Haven and Three Rivers from outside of our division."

Smith added: "We return a great group of core guys that all can shoot the ball and are willing to work hard on the defensive side of the floor.

"We will need new individuals to step up and help fill the roles of rebounding with our losses of COle and Kamden from last season. Our conference (and our division) is easily one of the strongest in all of southwest Michigan."

Gobles wrestling expects to be strong again

Devin Doorlag will be among the top wrestlers for Gobles this season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles' wrestling coach Erin Carlin has had a lot of success in recent seasons and is expecting more of the same this winter.

"Tigers wrestling had another record-breaking season in 2024-2025," he said. "Led by head and assistant zcoaches of the Year, Erin Carlin and John Weldon, they set a school duals record by going 32-5. The Tigers did this by competing against some of the best teams they could schedule in Divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4. In doing so, the Tigers finished the regular season ranked in the Top 10 by Michigan Grappler.

"The Tigers also finished the regular season with nine of their wrestlers ranked by Michigan Grappler. In addition, two Tiger wrestlers, Mason Mansfield and Devin Doorlag, broke the 100 Career Wins mark this season. The Tigers had four wrestlers earn All-Conference recognitions, seven Regional Qualifiers, five State Qualifiers, and four All-State Wrestlers. In addition, for the second consecutive year, the Tigers earned Academic All State Recognition."

Graduation took some outstanding athletes from the program.

The Tigers graduated two seniors from their program, Mason Mansfield and Nick Graves.

"Mason was a three-time All-State Wrestler and Team Captain who holds multiple school records," Carlin said. "Nick was an original member from when Coach Carlin took over the team and a solid contributor who was on the cusp of having his best year (24/25) had his season cut short due to injury."

Key wrestlers for this year are expected to be as follows:

Danny Timms, Sophomore, 106 pounds, 45-11, SAC 2nd Team, All State (4th): Great freshman year. Got better as the year progressed. Good wrestling instincts.

Jose Boger, Senior, 113 lbs., 39-20, SAC HM, Regional Qualifier, and (2024) All State (8th): Up and down sophomore year. Has the talent to return to States.

Devin Doorlag, Senior, 126 lbs., 44-14, (2x) All State (6th): Complete wrestler from top, bottom, and neutral positions. Very coachable. (Did not compete at SAC due to injury).

Aiden Dukes, Senior, 126 lbs., 39-11: Impressive in his first year wrestling. Very strong. Breaks opponents with his pace. Will be tough to beat as technique develops.

Hunter Piper, Junior, 132 lbs., 34-23: First year wrestler. Hard worker and great attitude. Puts team first and will notch a lot of wins this year.

Finn Carlin, Junior, 138 lbs., 28-3 (2024) All-State (3rd) – Complete wrestler. Very intelligent. Tough as they come. Limited all last season due to significant injuries, which eventually prohibited post-season participation. Top work ethic will see him better than ever. Captain. (Did not compete at SAC due to injury).

Colton Colingsworth, Senior, 165 lbs., 39-17, State Qualifier – Strong, hardworking kid. Trusts the process. Makes his partners better in the wrestling room. Continued improvement coming.

Brody Marshall, junior, 190 lbs., 56-9, All-State (6th) – Tenacious wrestler. Very tough. Capable of beating anyone with further development of strength and trust in the process. (Did not compete at SAC due to injury).

"I expect that our team is competing at Kalamazoo Wings Center for the State playoffs," Erin Carlin said. "Moreover, I believe that several of our kids will be competing at Ford Field for the (individual) State Championships. The leadership from the junior class is solid. They lead both in word and in action. Moreover, they are a scrappy group and I expect that the team will follow. We need to continue to develop our depth and our younger wrestlers.

"The SAC is a highly competitive conference with state qualifiers/champions across all weight classes. With that, I am uncertain who could be the betting favorite to win the team conference championship. I will tell you that it would be unwise to take the Tigers Team lightly. As the season progresses with a healthy roster, the Tigers expect to improve upon their conference finish from last season."

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=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS
OCTOBER 15, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held October 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Attendance: Scott Rueff, Tim Kloosterman, John Wagner, Kelly Redmond, Mark Roman, Sandra Rickli, Joe Leduc.

a. Motion passed to approve agenda as presented
b. Motion passed to approve meeting minutes of September 17, 2025
c. Disbursements approved in the amount of $38,620.80
d. Commissioner/Sheriff's Department/Mattawan Fire Department report
e. Public comment offered
f. Reports by officers presented
g. Motion passed to adopt the Almena Township Sick Time Policy
h. Motion to approve the Almena Township recommended cemetery rate increase
i. Public comment offered
j. Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Sandra Rickli, Clerk,
Almena Township

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO 2025-1185-DE
JUDGE: Hon. Susan Durian Metzger
212 E. Paw Paw Street, #220, Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225

Estate of Patricia Annette Grossman, Deceased
Date of Birth: January 21,1928
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **PATRICIA ANNETTE GROSSMAN, died November 11,2023.**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **MARY PUCKETT**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, **#220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 27, 2025

Attorney:
John T. McNeil P17542
239 E. Michigan Ave., #210
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-330-4840
Personal representative
Mary Puckett
6610 Daphne Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-271-1440

NOTICE TO CREDITORS - LIVING TRUST ESTATE
Trust Estate of: **JANICE M. STRONG**, Deceased
Date of Death: November 9, 2025
Social Security No: XXX-XX-3812
Date of Birth: xx-xx-1937
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent (and Living Trust Settlor) Janice M. Strong, Trustee of the Strong Family Trust who lived at 91436 Becker Beach Drive, Marcellus, MI 49067 died November 9, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless timely presented to Paul E. Strong of 12409 San Rafael Avenue, Albuquerque, NM 87122 and Jeffrey D. Strong of 2611 Camino Cordoba SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87214, Co-Successor Trustees of the Strong Family Trust within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Notice is further given that the trust estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Dated: November 20, 2025

Cordell R. Jones (P15567) JONES LAW OFFICE
120 West Main, Box 187
Marcellus, MI 49067
269/646-5511
Paul E. Strong, Co-Trustee
Address:
12409 San Rafael Avenue,
Albuquerque, NM 87214
Jeffrey D. Strong, Co-Trustee
Address:
2611 Camino Cordoba SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87214

State of Michigan
Probate Court
County of Van Buren
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
File No. 20252108GM & 20252109 GM
In the matter of **Jude Vaughn Wagner & Lila True Howell**
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
Corina Brizeno, Seth Wagner & Jackie Howell
whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 11,2025 at 10:30 A.M. at Van Buren County Probate Court, Courtroom #3 before Judge Susan Metzger #P62867 for the following purpose: **Guardianship Appointment of Minor Children.**

Date: 11/05/2025

Petitioner Name
Sierra Sibbersen
25184 36th St.
Gobles, MI 49055
(269)364-9119

State of Michigan
Probate Court
County of Van Buren
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
File No. 20252107 GM
In the matter of **Jayden Nova Cramer**
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: **Adrian Cramer** whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on **Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Van Buren County Probate Court, Courtroom #3 before Judge Susan Metzger P62867** for the following purpose: **Guardianship appointment of a minor child**

Date: 11/04/2025

Petitioner Name:
Thomas Labadie, Dr.
53251 Kathryn Rd.,
Paw Paw Mi 49079
(269)655-7433

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1160-DE
ESTATE OF DONALD W. TOLLENSDORF, Deceased
Date of Birth December 30, 1933 (12/30/1933)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Donald W. Tollensdorf, died August 9,2025 (8/9/2025).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims aginst the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mark Tollensdorf & Donna Zeppiero, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date:11/14/2025

Atterney:
Andrew W. Barnes #P70571
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Mark Tollensdorf
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&
Donna Zeppiero
76641 11th Ave.
South Haven, MI
616-405-3556

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Sawyer Stephan Brown; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-013829; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.
The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sawyer Stephan Brown, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 8, 2021 and recorded October 21, 2021 in Liber 1727, Page 827 Van Buren County Records, Michigan, and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded November 21, 2025 in Liber 1786, Page 457 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Five and 58/100 Dollars ($108,975.58).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Village of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot 102 of VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 25 of Deeds on Page 10, in the Office for the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County Records; thence South 53 feet; thence West 66 feet; thence North 53 feet; thence East 66 feet to the place of beginning.
210 N Van Buren Street, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: November 27, 2025
File No. 25-013829
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(11-27)(12-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Chelsea Nichole Selvidge; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-003295-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement.
Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Chelsea Nichole Selvidge and Joshua Allen Beebe, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank
Date of mortgage: May 21, 2024
Recorded on May 31, 2024, Liber 1766, on Page 422, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and 28/100 Dollars ($189,728.28) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: BEGINNING ON THE CENTER LINE OF MAIN STREET AT A POINT 297 FEET EASTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE OF SECTION; THENCE NORTH 484.4 FEET; THENCE WEST 40 FEET; THENCE SOUTH TO THE CENTER LINE OF SAID STREET; THENCE EASTERLY TO BEGINNING, EXCEPT MAIN STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, ALL BEING IN SECTION 16 TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST.
Commonly known as 519 W Main Street, Hartford, MI 49057
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1578606

(11-27)(12-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Nancy M. Dubois; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 11/6/2025; Atty File #: 25-012980; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on DECEMBER 4, 2025.
The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Nancy M. DuBois, a married woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated August 6, 2018 and recorded August 10, 2018 in Liber 1672, Page 378 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on May 13, 2020, in Liber 1700, Page 95, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Six and 25/100 Dollars ($143,526.25).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on DECEMBER 4, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Paw Paw, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lots 4 and 5, Block 3 of Marcelletti's Addition to the Village of Paw Paw, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 9, and amended by Order of the Circuit Court as recorded in Liber 503, Page 121, Van Buren County Records.
501 Marcelletti Ave, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1576398

(11-06)(11-27)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Thomas E Demarest; Atty: Shaheen - Shaheen Jacobs & Ross PC; 1st Pub: 11/13/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
(Van Buren County) NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County (at the front steps of the Courthouse in Paw Paw, Michigan), starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of the mortgage made by Thomas E. Demarest and Crystalle Demarest, husband and wife, as original mortgagors, to The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association, as original mortgagee, dated August 28, 2018, and recorded on September 18, 2018, at the Van Buren County, Michigan Register of Deeds, in Liber 1673, commencing on Page 936. The amount claimed to be due on this mortgage, on the date of this notice, was $380,188.36. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale.
Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The description of the mortgaged premises is all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Paw Paw, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan further described as follows: Part of the Northeast fractional 1/4 of fractional section 2, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, described as commencing at the North 1/4 post of said Section 2; thence East along the North line of said Section, 301.01 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence continuing East along said North line 614.03 feet to the Northwest corner of the plat of Green Meadow Highlands, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats, Page 83 of Van Buren County Records; thence South 00 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds West, along the East line of said plat and its extension Southerly thereof, 957.59 feet; thence North 89 degrees 28 minutes 10 seconds West, parallel with the South line of the North fractional 1/2 of said Northeast fractional 1/4, 34.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds West, 500.00 feet to said South line; thence North 89 degrees 28 minutes 10 seconds West, along said South line, 80.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds East 500.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 28 minutes 10 seconds West, parallel with the South line of the North fractional 1/2 of said Northeast fractional 1/4, 434.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds West, 500.00 feet to said South line, thence North 89 degrees 28 minutes 10 seconds West, along said South line, 66.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 36 minutes 17 seconds East, 1451.90 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 36862 49th Ave., Paw Paw, MI The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or when the time to provide the notice required by MCLA 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later or unless the redemption period is shortened in accordance with MCLA 600.3238. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA 600.3278, the borrower and mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Shaheen, Jacobs & Ross, P.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect this debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: November 6, 2025 The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association Mortgagee SHAHEEN, JACOBS & ROSS, P.C. By: Michael J. Thomas, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 615 Griswold Street, Suite 1425 Detroit, Michigan 48226-3993 (313) 963-1301

(11-13)(12-04)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: John F Crawford; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 11/20/2025; Atty File #: 25MI00779-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, December 18, 2025.
The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by John F. Crawford, a

Continues on page 11

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

AVB Construction, LLC is preparing to make some Campus Site and Athletic Improvements for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. Commencement of work will be in two phases. Phase 1: Spring 2026 - Summer 2026 & Phase 2: Spring 2027 - Summer 2027

AVB is performing multiple projects at Mattawan Consolidated Schools over the next 2 years.

Bid Information

Bid Information is available now:

Contact Amanda Peters for access to bidders' instructions, plans and specifications: apeters@avbinc.com - 269-816-4418

All bidders must supply a bid bond, a notarized statement of familial relationship & other required affidavits found on the district website

Bids are due:

Monday, December 15 at 11:00 AM EST at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office - 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071 (ATTN Pam Stermer, CFO)

There will be a sealed public bid opening immediately following. Late bids will not be considered.

Project Location, Schedule

Mattawan Consolidated Schools
56720 Murray Street, Mattawan, MI 49071

Campus Site & Athletic Improvements Project:

Phase 1 Starts Spring 2026 – Completion Summer 2026

Phase 2 Starts Spring 2027 – Completion Summer 2027

Scopes of Work Bidding

Scopes of Work Include:

26.100 Electrical, 31.100 Sitework, 32.120 Asphalt & Paving, 032.130 Site Concrete; 032.310 Fences and Gates, 032.900 Landscaping & Irrigation

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAW PAW TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Paw Paw Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. The public is invited to comment on the matter.

Application:

- Request: Variance for a new home to be constructed with a front setback equal to or greater than 15 feet from the street right-of-way (requirement is 50 feet) and an east side setback equal to or greater than 5 feet (requirement is 15 feet). The variance request relates to Chapter 42, Article 6, Attachment 3 of the Paw Paw Township Zoning Ordinance (dimensional requirements).
- Zoning District: Waterfront Area (WFR)
- Project Address: 69211 Eagle Drive, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Project Parcel Number: 80-14-430-026-00
- Applicant: Jeremy Vainavicz (Field and Vine Development Group)

Meeting Information:

- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

The Paw Paw District Library Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed library budget for the 2026 fiscal year at 609 West Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079, on December 15, 2025, at 6:55 pm.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Paw Paw District Library, 609 West Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079, during regular business hours.

The Paw Paw District Library will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon 6 days' notice to the Paw Paw District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Paw Paw District Library by writing or calling the Director at 609 West Michigan Ave., MI 49079, or (269) 657-3800.

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Continues from page 8

single man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 5, 2019, and recorded on September 20, 2019, in Liber 1689, Page 612, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 22, 2025 and recorded October 29, 2025 in Liber 1785, Page 493, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Five and 90/100 ($29,655.90) including interest at the rate of 5.75000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of HAMILTON, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 34 and 35, Supervisor`s Plat Of Ackley Beach, as recorded in Liber 1, Page 29, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as: 46800 EAST DR, DECATUR, MI 49045 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 20, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00779-1

(11-20)(12-11)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Sandra E. McGwin-Kelly; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-011907; Insurer: (unknown)
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.
The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kevin Jon Kelly and Sandra E. McGwin-Kelly, husband and wife, to Chemical Bank Shoreline, Mortgagee, dated June 18, 2001 and recorded June 25, 2001 in Liber 1334, Page 313 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CSMC 2021-RPL6 Trust, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Seven and 95/100 Dollars ($78,677.95).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Arlington, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST.
26508 52nd St, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: November 27, 2025
File No. 25-011907
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(11-27)(12-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Lisa Breur; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS; 1st Pub: 11/27/2025; Atty File #: 25-29362; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement.
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on January 8, 2026.
The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Lisa Breur and Timothy Breur to Equity Prime Mortgage LLC dated September 22, 2021 and recorded September 27, 2021 in Liber 1726 at Page 491, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $169,151.31.
Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: The land referred to in this instrument, situated in the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Lot 9, Block 3, Original Plat of the Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat in Liber G of Plats, Page 444, Van Buren County Records.
Parcel ID No(s).: 80-46-010-033-00
Said property is commonly known as 24238 Front Ave, Mattawan, MI 49071. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: November 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-29362

(11-27)(12-18)

TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE
VAN BUREN COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Grove Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 110525, at a regular board meeting held on November 5, 2025. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 110525
REZONING OF PROPERTY IN LAND SECTION 19

SECTION I. REZONING TO "I" INDUSTRIAL. This Section amends the Zoning Map, as incorporated by reference into the Township Zoning Ordinance to rezone property addressed as 13157 M-40 Hwy, Gobles, MI 49055 (Parcel no. 80-15-019-011-10) from the "C-1" Neighborhood Commercial District zoning classification to the "I" Industrial District zoning classification with a legal description of the parcel included.

SECTION II. SEVERABILITY. This Section provides that if any part of this Ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then that shall not affect the validity of any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION III. REPEAL OF ORDINANCE. This Section repeals conflicting ordinances.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Sections sets the time period for the Ordinance to become effective at eight (8) days after publication

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Pine Grove Township at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days. A copy of the Ordinance is also posted on the Township's website at https://pinegrovetownshipmi.gov/.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP
Michelle Meert, Clerk
26520 County Road, Gobles, MI 49055
(269) 628-4380 / clerk@pinegrovetownshipmi.gov

=• CLASSIFIEDS •=

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE SOUTH HAVEN AREA Call 269-903-6397.

• HOUSING •

TWO BEDROOM RIVERFRONT APARTMENT FOR RENT, NEWLY REMODELED, $1000 per month plus utilities, $1500 deposit. Must provide proof of income. No pets. 1 year lease. Rental references and background check required. 269-720-4856.

MEDICARE INSURANCE RATES GOING UP
Call for a quote today Janet Bontrager Insurance Advisor (269) 998-6977

SCHEDULE A FALL LEAF CLEANUP.
Curbside pick-up available
Free Estimates.
Senior Discount.
Call Anthony, 269-599-9528.

City of Bangor
The City Council of Bangor, Michigan, is amending Ordinance No. 254, which proposes:

AMENDMENT TO TITLE IX, GENERAL REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 93: FIRE PREVENTION OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE CITY OF BANGOR MICHIGAN, CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC) 2021 EDITION AND THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE (IMPC) 2021 EDITION, AND TO PROHIBIT BURNING OF GRASS, WEEDS, OPEN LAND, RUBBISH, WOOD, PAPER, PAPER GOODS, CARDBOARD, BRUSH AND LEAVES IN THE CITY OF BANGOR; AUTHORIZE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE FIRE CHIEF FOR CERTAIN FIRES; AND ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR SAME. AND TO ADD SECTION 93.70 SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY RENTAL DWELLINGS, PROPERTY REGISTRATION AND SAFETY THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY BY REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING OF SINGLE, TWO-FAMILY, AND MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL RENTAL DWELLINGS IN THE CITY ALONG WITH PROPER FIRE SAFETY FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. RENTAL DWELLING REGISTRATION, WHEN COMBINED WITH PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF CERTAIN HABITABLE AREA AND EXTERIOR ACCESSIBILITY ASPECTS OF THE PROPERTY, WILL AID IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SAFETY

If adopted, the ordinance would become effective 10 days after adoption. Scheduled for adoption by the City Council on December 1, 2025, following a second reading.

A full copy of the amended ordinance can be obtained by contacting the clerk at clerk@cityofbangormi.gov or at City Hall 257 W Monroe St Bangor, MI 49013 Monday-Friday from 9AM to 4PM.

VILLAGE OF LAWTON, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION AND SYNOPSIS OF ORDINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS GIVEN that at a regular meeting held on November 11, 2025, the Village Council for the Village of Lawton adopted Ordinance No. 05-2025 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TABLES 5.02.A AND 5.03.A, AMEND SECTION 5.04, ENACT SECTIONS 5.26, 5.27, AND 5.28, AMEND SECTION 11.04, AND ENACT SECTIONS 11.13 - 11.17, AND AMEND SUBSECTIONS 15.02(S) AND 15.02(W) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON

THE EFFECT OF ORDINANCE NO. 05-2025 (the "Ordinance") IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. Amendment of Table 5.02.A. Amends Table 5.02.A of Section 5.02 of Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance, entitled "Permitted Uses in AG and Residential Zone Districts" to include wind turbines, solar panels, wireless communication facilities, and small cell wireless facilities.

Article 2. Amendment of Table 5.03.A. Amends Table 5.03.A of Section 5.03 of Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Permitted Uses in Commercial and Industrial Zone Districts" to include wind turbines, solar panels, wireless communication facilities, and small cell wireless facilities; amends section references.

Article 3. Amendment of Section 5.04. Amends Section 5.04 of Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Applicability of use Regulations" by modifying provisions regarding special land uses.

Article 4. Enactment of Section 5.26. Enacts a new Section 5.26 of Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Wind and Solar Energy" and sets forth the regulations regarding wind and solar energy.

Article 5. Enactment of Section 5.27. Enacts a new Section 5.27 of Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Wireless Communications Facilities," provides definitions, and sets forth the regulations regarding wireless communications facilities.

Article 6. Enactment of Section 5.28. Enacts a new Section 5.28 of Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Small Cell Wireless Facilities," provides definitions, and sets forth regulations regarding small cell wireless facilities.

Article 7. Amendment of Section 11.04. Amends Section 11.04 of Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Issuance of a Building Permit After Site Plan Approval" by modifying certain provisions regarding site plan approval.

Article 8. Enactment of Section 11.13. Enacts a new Section 11.13 of Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Fees" and provides that the Village Council may adopt a fee schedule and escrow policy.

Article 9. Enactment of Section 11.14. Enacts a new Section 11.14 of Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Administration, Violation, and Penalties," provides for the administration and enforcement the Zoning Ordinance, and provides that a violation of the Zoning Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction.

Article 10. Enactment of Section 11.15. Enacts a new Section 11.15 of Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Declaration of Nuisance" and provides that a violation of the ordinance is a nuisance per se.

Article 11. Enactment of Section 11.16. Enacts a new Section 11.6 of Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Abandonment" and sets forth the regulations regarding the abandonment of any approval, construction activities, and/or continues use of a property or a structure.

Article 12. Enactment of Section 11.17. Enacts a new Section 11.17 of Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled "Transfer of Ownership" and provides the notice requirements when transferring ownership of property for which a notice or citation of the ordinance has been issued.

Article 13. Amendment of Subsection 15.02(S). Amends subsection 15.02(S) of Article 15 of the Zoning Ordinance by enacting the definition of "Small Cell Wireless Facility."

Article 14. Amendment of Subsection 15.02(W). Amends subsection 15.02(W). of Article 15 of the Zoning Ordinance by modifying and enacting definitions related to wireless facilities and equipment.

Article 15. Savings Clause. Provides that the provisions of the Ordinance are severable.

Article 16. Repealer. Provides that Ordinance No. 03 of 2025 is repealed in its entirety, and if any ordinance or portions of any other ordinance conflicts with the Ordinance, the other ordinances to the extent of such conflict are repealed.

Article 17. Effective Date. Provides that the Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of the 7th day following publication of this notice and synopsis.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON
A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE ORDINANCE MAY BE OBTAINED, INSPECTED, COPIED, OR REVIEWED AT THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE.
Location: 125 S Main Street Lawton, MI 49065
Days/Hours of operation: Monday - Thursday: 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Contact information: (269) 624-6407 or brathbun@lawtonmi.org

Date: 11/11/2005

Brittany Rathbun
Village of Lawton Clerk

Paw Paw vet awarded Korean Ambassador for Peace medal

A Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal Ceremony was hosted at Allegan City Hall on Saturday November 15, 2025, to honor two local Kalamazoo area Veterans. Allegan City Councilmember Melanie Hooker, Allegan City Manager Joel Dye and Mayor Traci Perrigo attended.

"We are so honored to have had the opportunity to recognize these Veterans and facilitate this medal ceremony on behalf of the South Korean Consulate," said Traci Perrigo, "It meant the world to the families and the Veterans as well." Also in attendance were Officer Chad Dame, Assistant City Manager Parker Johnson, Allegan City Councilmember Carl Canales and Deputy Clerk Carol Canales.

The Korean War was fought between North Korea and South Korea starting on June 25, 1950 and ending July 27, 1953 with the signing of an armistice agreeing that the country would remain divided. During the war, United States military forces were joined by 21 other countries in driving the forces of North Korea, China and Russia out of the Republic of Korea. This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to United States service men and women who served in the Korean War.

"Identifying Korean War Veterans and honoring their service is important," said Karen Braddy Lambert, Board of Directors of Talons Out Honor Flight, "I met these Veterans on the last Talons Out Honor Flight, Mission 27 on October 11, 2025, and was excited to learn that they qualified for this beautiful medal. Today, only around 14% of our Korean War Veterans are with us so we want to honor as many as we can, as quickly as we can." Major Steve Lambert, United States Air Force Retired presented the medals.

Two local Veterans were recognized: Roy Lawrence James of Allegan served in the Army and received a Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and the Bronze Star. Leon James Pachner of Paw Paw served in the Navy and received the National Defense Medal, the China Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the United Nations Medal.

Leon Pachner said, "As a serviceman during this conflict I had an opportunity to serve my country and support South Korea. I am proud to receive this award as it signifies not only the unity between the countries but recognizes all the men and women who served in our armed forces."

DHHS Seeks those interested in adopting families for Christmas

HARTFORD - Families are still available for Christmas adoption in Gobles, Mattawan, Paw Paw, and Hartford, according to Niki Handy, Van Buren County Department of Health & Human Services Community Resource Coordinator.

Churches, businesses, or organizations wanting to adopt families for the holidays are asked to contact Handy.

General Christmas Family Adoption Guidelines:

"Our priority is making sure that the children (anyone under 18) have gifts for Christmas. Everything else, such as gifts for the parents, family gifts, gift cards, food, etc. is completely up to you," said Handy.

She continued, "I will provide the actual referrals that the families filled out. Please feel free to contact them directly to let you know that they have been adopted or for clarification for what is on their referrals. Please note that some families are very vague with gift suggestions and some list some "pie in the sky" ideas. Please know that there is no expectation to purchase these items."

Handy said, "Please make arrangements directly with the family/families regarding pick-up/delivery. It is up to you whether you would like to wrap the gifts or not."

Guidelines are a little different for individuals who would like to adopt through Handy.

Those interested in this program are asked to e-mail Handy at handyn@michigan.gov. Handy may be reached at (269) 308 9295, Van Buren County Department of Health & Human Services, 57150 County Road 681, Hartford.

Local scouters receive service awards

The Boy Scouts of America (recently rebranded as Scouting BSA) recognized four veteran adult leaders from across the Southwest Michigan area for their combined 185 years of service in the BSA. Adult volunteers need to apply and be approved by the national scout office to receive their service pins for any year above 25. The program recognizes five-year increments. Those honored included Laura Lyster, Kalamazoo, 35 years; Bob Thomson, Mendon, 40 years; Bill Semrau, Mattawan, 45 years; and Jim Willoughby, Kalamazoo, 65 years. Shown in photo from left, are Jim Willoughby, Laura Lyster, and Bill Semrau.

Ackerman named Kiwanis Oct. Student of the Month

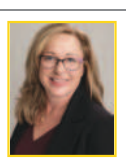
The Paw Paw Kiwanis Club has named Austin Ackerman as its October Student of the Month. Teacher Laura Tremblay said of "Austin is an outstanding leader in the marching band. He worked closely with the trumpet section through band camp, making sure that each member was prepared daily. He helped set formations, was quick to adjust to a new director/direction and always was positive. What impressed me most was that he pulled freshmen to the side and helped them with their marching technique and getting to sets properly." Austin also plays football and is on the track team. He is also a member of the Pep Band that provided the music for the school fall musical. Ackerman is the son of Deanna and Kevin Hawley. Shown in photo, from left, Austin Ackerman, Laura Tremblay and Paw Paw Kiwanian Elaine Kuklinski.

Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Kiwanis Club

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Happy Thanksgiving

We are thinking of you this season and hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



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